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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/758,939	01/10/2001	Jennifer Lu	5075-0028	9598

23980 7590 12/27/2004

REED INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW GROUP  
800 MENLO AVENUE, SUITE 210  
MENLO PARK, CA 94025

EXAMINER
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MAGEE, CHRISTOPHER R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2653

DATE MAILED: 12/27/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/758,939

Applicant(s)

LU ET AL.

Examiner

Christopher R. Magee

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 June 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 and 40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 34-39 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10 January 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 5/21/2001.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Election/Restrictions*

1. Applicant's election without traverse of claims 1-27 and 40 in the reply filed 6/24/2004 is acknowledged.
2. Claims 34-39 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 6/24/2004.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

- Claims 1-5, 7, 8, 10, 14, 16-19, 22-27 and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hira et al. (hereinafter Hira) (US 5,910,864).

- Regarding claims 1-4, 14, 16 and 22, Hira discloses a method for producing a transducer slider comprising:

- (a) coating a substrate with a radiation-sensitive layer [col. 17, lines 63-67];
- (b) imagewise exposing the radiation-sensitive layer to radiation according to an intensity pattern [col. 24, lines 5-17];
- (c) developing the image into the radiation-sensitive layer [col. 24, lines 5-17]; and
- (d) transferring the image into the substrate to form a transducer slider having a surface

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profile comprising a tapered edge [Figs. 18A-D ].

- Regarding claims 5 and 6, Hira teaches the radiation-sensitive layer is a positive resist [col. 12, lines 21-23].

- Regarding claims 7 and 8, Hira discloses the radiation sensitive layer has a thickness of about 1 to 20 m [col. 12, lines 36-38].

- Regarding claim 10, Hira discloses the radiation has an ultraviolet wavelength [col. 20, lines 17-20].

- Regarding claims 17-19, Hira discloses the etchant comprises an Argon based gas [col. 27, lines 45-49].

- Regarding claims 23-27, Hira teaches the substrate comprises a ceramic material [col. 23, lines 33-39].

- Regarding claim 40, Hira discloses a method for producing a transducer slider comprising:

- (a) coating a substrate with a radiation-sensitive layer [col. 17, lines 63-67];

- (b) imagewise exposing the radiation-sensitive layer to radiation according to an intensity pattern [col. 24. lines 5-17 ];

- (c) developing the image into the radiation-sensitive layer [col. 24. lines 5-17]; and

- (d) transferring the image into the substrate to form a transducer slider having a surface profile comprising a rounded corner [Figs. 18A-D].

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***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

- Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hira et al. (hereinafter Hira) (US 5,910,864) in view of Dickinson, Jr. (hereinafter Dickinson) (US 6,033,766).

- Regarding claim 9, Hira discloses all the described features, *supra*, but does not teach or suggest the radiation is photonic.

Dickinson teaches exposing a surface to laser radiation that is monochromatic radiation, which results from photon stimulated emission, i.e., photonic radiation [col. 1, lines 40-47; col. 4, lines 55-63].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to substitute the radiation of Hira with photonic radiation via a laser as taught by Block.

The rationale is as follows: One of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have been motivated to substitute the radiation of Hira with photonic radiation via a laser as taught by Block in order to maintain close dimensional control [Dickinson; col. 2, lines 25-28].

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- Claims 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hira et al. (hereinafter Hira) (US 5,910,864) in view of Block et al. (hereinafter Block) (US 6,033,766).

- Regarding claims 11-13, Hira discloses all the described features, *supra*, but does not teach or suggest the intensity pattern being provided using a grayscale mask.

Block teaches gray scale masks are useful in manufacturing various three dimensional mechanical, electrical and optical devices [col. 1, lines 19-34].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the intensity pattern of Hira using a gray scale mask as taught by Block.

The rationale is as follows: One of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have been motivated to provide the intensity pattern of Hira using a gray scale mask as taught by Block in order to represent a three dimensional information, (e.g., a height profile or depth pattern) [Block; col. 1, lines 35-40].

- Claims 20 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hira et al. (hereinafter Hira) (US 5,910,864) in view of Yoshida et al. (Yoshida) (US 5,331,495).

- Regarding claims 20 and 21, Hira discloses all the described features, *supra*, but does not teach or suggest the etchant comprises a liquid.

Yoshida teaches a resulting mask pattern is subjected to wet treatment by a liquid etchant for patterning [col. 8, lines 64-67].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to expose the substrate of Hira with a liquid etchant as taught by Yoshida.

The rationale is as follows: One of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have been motivated to expose the substrate of Hira with a liquid etchant as taught by

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Yoshida in order to achieve a stable lift off and with the least changes in the substrate profile [Yoshida; col. 5, line 66 to col. 6, line 2].

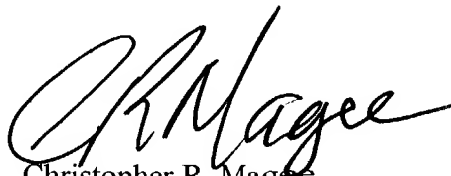
***Conclusion***

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher R. Magee whose telephone number is (703) 605-4256. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8: 00 am-5: 30 pm.

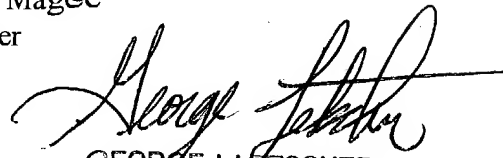
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William Korzuch can be reached on (703) 305-6137. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

December 21, 2004



Christopher R. Magee  
Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 2653



GEORGE J. LETSCHER  
PRIMARY EXAMINER